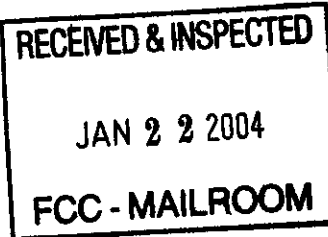


EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Alaska Telephone Association

Greg Berberich
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James Rowe
Executive Director
jrowe@arctic.net

January 13, 2004
Ms Marlene H Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

ORIGINAL

RE: *Ex Parte* Notice

In the Matter of

Federal State Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms Dortch:

Consistent with commission rules, this communication is submitted to be filed in the above referenced docket. On January 6, 2004 Greg Berberich, CEO of Matanuska Telephone Association Cooperative, Jack Rhyner, CEO of TelAlaska, Inc. and I met with FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein, member of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service and his Senior Legal Advisor, Lisa Zaina. In support of the social policy of universal service and the social contract upon which rural incumbent local exchange carriers have invested to comply with carrier of last resort responsibility, we advocated against a study area freeze on the universal service fund and for substantial guiding standards for the designation of competitive eligible telecommunications carrier status. Further, we opined that any "primary line" recommendation, along with being an administrative nightmare if not an impossibility, was likely to result in harm to the goal of universal service by providing insufficient support for a designated carrier of last resort.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim Rowe".

Jim Rowe

cc: Copies rec'd 013
List A B C D E

cc: Lisa Zaina